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December 11, 1961 - Monday

I went to the Embassy this morning, to send off a telegram to George Ball.

I took the 12:00 o'clock Air France plane to London, and sat next to my old friend, President Antoine Pinay. I have always liked him, and it was a great pleasure to see him again. He is to spend a few days in England, talking to friends about Britain's application to join the Common Market. He is keen to see this accomplished, and thinks the UK will suffer economically and financially if it fails to be admitted. Moreover, he believes the Continental Nations would be

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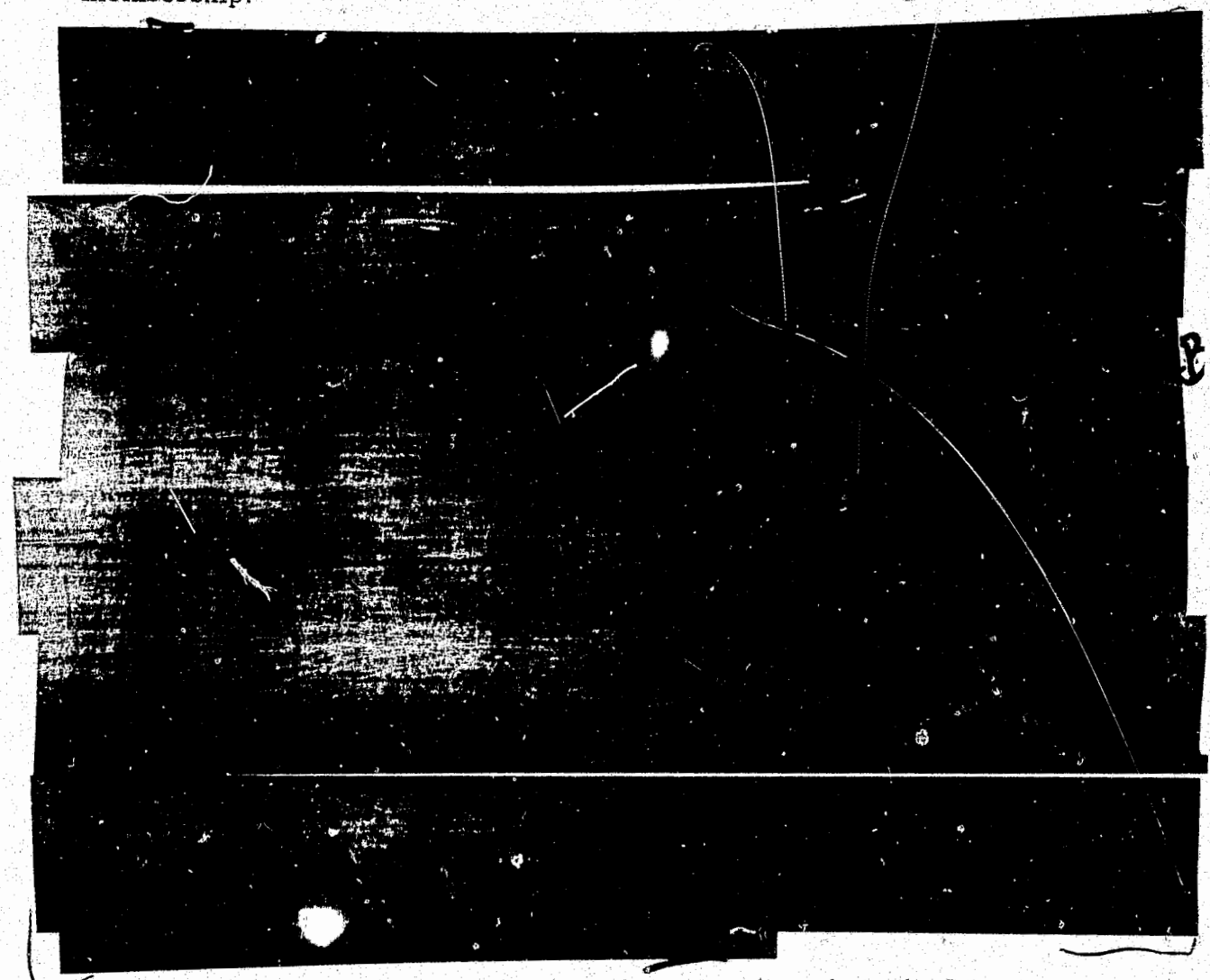
strengthened by Britain's admission. Because of de Gaulle's desire to maintain France's sovereignty pure and unfettered, it appears he is opposed to UK membership.



Al Wells met me at the airport, and we went directly to the Ministry of Defence, where I joined Secretary McNamara and Paul Nitze in their talks with Harold Watkinson. Afterwards they came back with me to the office, and told me what [redacted] happened in their sessions with him last night and this morning.

Tonight we dined with Lady Reading. The others there were Lord and Lady Mills, and Mrs. de Rothschild. Lord Mills, the Paymaster-General, is supposed to be Macmillan's most intimate friend, and is sometimes known as Eminence Grise.

December 12, 1961 - Tuesday

The Finnish Ambassador, a particularly agreeable fellow, paid a return call. He thought his President's trip to see Krushchev in Siberia had been successful, in that the Soviets had refrained from making any arbitrary demands on him.

Dick Neustadt came up from Oxford to see me. He is about to take a tour which will lead him into the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, and other places. He strikes me as being unusually bright, and it is a pleasure to be with him.

Vit Bassie, who was formerly with me in the Department of Commerce, and is now on sabbatical leave, came to see me.

Tonight I was guest of honor at the annual dinner of the Military Commentato It took place at the RAF Club on Piccadilly. I made rather a lengthy speech, and afterwards was subjected to much interrogation. It was evident that most of the members would have liked to drill me on the Congo question, but kindly refrained from controverting my explanation of U. S. Government reasoning. They exposed their own views, all of which were anti-UN, to the effect that the American Government ill-advisedly supported UN activities in the Congo. I sat between Jack Slesson, who presided, and Captain Liddel famous, but not always wise, commentator.

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